

Serial No. 10/522,446
Filed: January 19, 2005
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Examiner: Steven M. Marsh
Group Art Unit: 3632

Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached sheets of drawings includes changes to Figures 6, 7 (now 7A), 13, and 15, and new Figure 7. These sheets, which include Figures 6, 7, 7A, 13, and 15, replace the original sheets including Figures 6, 7, 13, and 15. New Figure 7 illustrates a vehicular mirror assembly incorporating the elements illustrated in Figures 2-6 and 7A.

Attachment: Replacement Sheet

Annotated Sheet Showing Changes

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REMARKS

Claims 1-34 were in the application as filed. In this paper, claims 1, 13, 19, and 21 have been amended, and claims 23-34 have been cancelled without prejudice pursuant to a requirement for restriction. The drawings have been amended to resolve alleged omissions, and the specification has been amended to reflect the drawing amendments and to correct typographic errors.

Applicants believe the amendments made herein add no new matter. Any amendment to the claims which has been made in this Amendment and Response, and which has not been specifically noted to overcome a rejection based on prior art, should be considered to have been made for a purpose unrelated to patentability, and no estoppel should be deemed to be attached thereto. Reconsideration and reexamination of the application is respectfully requested in view of the amendments and the following remarks.

Objections to Drawings

The drawings stand objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(b) as allegedly incomplete. The objection is traversed.

The Examiner asserts that Applicants fail to show an assembled view of the invention. Specifically, “The separate components shown in figures 3-12 are never shown in an assembled state and it is unclear exactly how the parts are oriented with respect the vehicle and how the mirror is mounted into the pockets and depressions.”

New Figure 7 illustrates a vehicular mirror assembly incorporating the components of the mirror assembly illustrated in Figures 2-6 and 7A. The components illustrated in Figures 8-12 are illustrated in Figures 13-16. The drawings, and the specification as set forth in the table incorporated herein fully describe “how the parts are oriented with respect the vehicle and how the mirror is mounted into the pockets and depressions.”

Applicants request withdrawal of the objection, and acceptance of the drawings.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §112, ¶1

Claims 1-22 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, ¶1, as allegedly failing to comply with the enablement requirement. The rejection is traversed.

The Examiner asserts that the claims contain subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to enable one skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and/or use the invention. Specifically, the Examiner asserts:

The specification and drawings (as discussed above) fail to discuss how the components of figures 1-12 interact with each other to form the completed rear view mirror assembly claims in claims 1-22. As mentioned above, the drawings do not contain a figure showing the completed assembly. The views of completed assemblies shown in figures 2 and 15 appear to be alternate embodiments, as the reference characters included in figures 1-12 are not included in those particular figures.

The amended drawings illustrate the completed rear view mirror assembly, as discussed above. The following table identifies the portions of the specification as filed, and the Figures, supporting each element of claims 1-22:

Claim	Description
1. A side-mounted rearview mirror assembly comprising a mirror housing enclosing a mirror case supporting a reflective element and a support base having a mounting panel for mounting the mirror;	Application, p. 6, ln. 9-16; Figs. 1 and 2.
at least one hook assembly extending from the mounting panel configured to engage at least one socket mounting the mirror assembly to a vehicle by translating said mounting panel relative to said at least one socket; and	Application, p. 7, ln. 33 – p. 9, ln. 12; Figs. 11-15.

a resilient seal assembly extending along at least a portion of the perimeter of the support base for engaging the vehicle.	Application, p. 11, ln. 4-25; Fig. 15.
2. The side-mounted rearview mirror assembly of claim 1 wherein the at least one hook assembly comprises three hook assemblies and the at least one socket comprises three sockets.	Figs. 11-15
3. The side-mounted rearview mirror assembly of claim 1 and further comprising at least one boss extending from the mounting panel and at least one locator pad extending from the side panel, the at least one boss being adapted for movement away from the side panel when the at least one boss is translated along the at least one locator pad as the mounting panel is translated along the side panel to mount the mirror to the vehicle.	Application, p. 7, ln. 33 – p. 9, ln. 12; Figs. 11-15.
4. The side-mounted rearview mirror assembly of claim 1 wherein the at least one hook assembly comprises a pair of hooks.	Figs. 11-15
5. The side-mounted rearview mirror assembly of claim 1 wherein the resilient seal assembly comprises a trim frame adapted for mounting over the support base when the mirror is mounted to the vehicle.	Application, p. 11, ln. 4-17; Fig. 15.
6. The side-mounted rearview mirror assembly of claim 1 wherein the resilient seal assembly comprises an integrated portion of the mounting panel.	Application, p. 11, ln. 18-25.
7. The side-mounted rearview mirror assembly of claim 1 and further comprising a support base cover assembly for covering the support base when the mirror is mounted to the vehicle.	Application, p. 9, ln. 15 – p. 10, ln. 32; Fig. 15.
8. The side-mounted rearview mirror assembly of claim 7 wherein the support base	Application, p. 9, ln. 15 – p. 10, ln. 32; Fig. 15.

cover assembly comprises a base sleeve and a support base panel removable from the base sleeve.	
9. The side-mounted rearview mirror assembly of claim 1 wherein the mounting panel is translated along the side panel toward the front portion of the motor vehicle.	Application, p. 7, ln. 33 – p. 9, ln. 12; Figs. 11-15.
10. The side-mounted rearview mirror assembly of claim 1 wherein the mirror case further comprises a pivot point at an outboard end thereof for adjusting the horizontal and vertical tilt of the mirror case.	Application, p. 6, ln. 14 – p. 7, ln. 5; Figs. 2-5.
11. The side-mounted rearview mirror assembly of claim 10 and further comprising a power pack mounted to an inboard end of the mirror case for adjusting the horizontal and vertical tilt of the mirror case about the pivot point.	Application, p. 7, ln. 19-27; Fig. 9.
12. The side-mounted rearview mirror assembly of claim 1 and further comprising an access opening in the mirror housing for gaining access to the interior of the mirror housing and a flexible, removable door for covering the access opening.	Application, p. 7, ln. 28-32; Fig. 10.
13. A vehicular mirror mounting system for mounting a vehicular mirror to a side panel of a vehicle comprising: a mirror mounting panel adapted to receive a mirror head with a reflective element mounted therein, the mirror mounting panel having one of a hook and a socket directed in a forward direction with respect to a direction of travel of the vehicle;	Application, p. 6, ln. 9-16; Figs. 1 and 2. Application, p. 6, ln. 9-16, p. 7, ln. 33 – p. 9, ln. 12; Figs. 1, 2, 11-15.
a vehicle side panel having the other of a hook and a socket directed in a rearward direction with respect to a direction of travel of the vehicle;	Application, p. 7, ln. 33 – p. 9, ln. 12; Figs. 11-15.

wherein the hook is adapted to be slidably received within the socket when the hook and socket are operably aligned with one another and the mirror mounting panel is moved forwardly with respect to the vehicle side panel so that the hook is received within the socket.	Application, p. 7, ln. 33 – p. 9, ln. 12; Figs. 11-15.
14. The system of claim 13 and further comprising at least one fastener fixedly mounting the mirror mounting panel to the vehicle side panel.	Application, p. 8, ln. 7-11; Fig. 11.
15. The system of claim 14 wherein the at least one fastener comprises at least one threaded fastener extending through aligned apertures in the mirror mounting panel and the vehicle side panel.	Application, p. 8, ln. 7-11, p. 9, ln. 13-14; Fig. 11.
16. The system of claim 13 and further comprising at least one seal mounted to at least one peripheral edge of the mirror mounting panel.	Application, p. 11, ln. 4-22; Fig. 15
17. The system of claim 16 wherein the at least one seal is integrally formed with the mirror mounting panel.	Application, p. 11, ln. 18-25.
18. The system of claim 17 wherein the at least one seal comprises a flip seal.	Application, p. 11, ln. 14-17; Fig. 14.
19. The system of claim 16 wherein the at least one seal forms an effective barrier against wind and water ingress when the mirror mounting panel is mounted to the vehicle side panel when the hook is received within the socket.	Application, p. 12, ln. 5-14.
20. The system of claim 13 wherein the socket further comprises a locator pad positioned adjacent thereto.	Application, p. 8, ln. 23 – p. 9, ln. 12; Figs. 13, 15.
21. The system of claim 20 and further comprising a boss in spaced relationship to	Application, p. 8, ln. 19-22; Figs. 11-14.

the hook.	
22. The system of claim 21 and further comprising a locator pad in spaced relationship to the socket, wherein the locator pad is in register with the boss when the mirror mounting panel is mounted to the side panel to create tension therebetween to further secure the mounting between these components.	Application, p. 7, ln. 33 – p. 9, ln. 12; Figs. 11-15.

As the above table indicates, the subject matter of the claims has been adequately described in the specification and drawings. Thus, Applicants request withdrawal of the rejection, and the allowance of claims 1-22.

CONCLUSION

For the reasons discussed above, claims 1-22 are allowable over the prior art. If there are any remaining issues which the Examiner believes may be resolved in an interview, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned. Early notification of allowability is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

IAN BODDY ET AL.

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